

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. – 17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

patterning a pixel section of an image sensor including pixel features having a first pitch on a surface; and

patterning a decoder section of the image sensor including features having a second pitch which is smaller than the first pitch on the surface, wherein said features include routing lines,

wherein a ratio of the second pitch to the first pitch is less than approximately 0.98; and

~~The method of claim 22, wherein the first pitch is approximately 9  $\mu\text{m}$  and the second pitch is approximately 8.75  $\mu\text{m}$ .~~

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

patterning a pixel section of an image sensor including pixel features having a first pitch on a surface; and

patterning a decoder section of the image sensor including features having a second pitch which is smaller than the first pitch on the surface, wherein said features include routing lines,

wherein a ratio of the second pitch to the first pitch is less than approximately 0.95, and

~~The method of claim 24,~~ wherein the first pitch is approximately 18  $\mu\text{m}$  and the second pitch is approximately 17  $\mu\text{m}$ .